Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 207343 ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 ARA-14 /035 R

DRAFTED BY COM/BED/OED/MEPD/GBURKE:DMW APPROVED BY EB/OCA:WERAU COM/BED/OED/MEPD/JNRANDOLPH, JR. COM/BED/OED/MEPD/LENGLESON,ACT. DIR COM/BED/OIM/AWILLIAMS (INFO) ARA/ECP:WSKOK(INFO)

-----107780 161707Z /47

R 161525Z AUG 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS STATE 207343

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BENC, RP

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: INTEGRATED STEEL MILL

REF: (A) MANILA 2285; (B) MANILA A-114; MANILA 320

- 1. U.S. STEEL ENGINEERS AND CONSULTANTS (UEC) ASKED USDOC/MEPD IF EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE UPDATE ON PHILIPPINE INTEGRATED STEEL MILL PROJECT. PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WHETHER DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON SIZE OF MILL AND STATUS DECISION TO ACCEPT JAPANESE FEASIBILITY STUDY.
- 2. FIRM HAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT ANOTHER POSSIBLE INTEGRATED

STEEL PROJECT ON LUZON. IN MARCH 1977 UEC WAS APPROACHED BY DOS ISABELOS (DI) HEAVY INDUSTRIES (WTDR REF A) WHICH CLAIMS TO BE IN JOINT VENTURE WITH PHILIPPINE PACIFIC MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CORP (PPMDC), WHICH, IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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CLAIMED, HAS AUTHORIZATION FROM PRESIDENT MARCOS TO BUILD 2500 TON PER DAY INTEGRATED STEEL MILL IN CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENT OF MARCOS CANAL AND LAMON BAY. LATEST DI LETTER OF INQUIRY (DTDJULY 18, 1978) CONCERNS SUPPLY OF TECHNICAL SERVICES BY UEC BUT ALSO REQUIRES BUYBACK

ARRANGEMENT OVER THREE YEARS OF 50,000 MT/MONTH OF

CHROMITE, 25,000 MT/MONTH OF MANGANESE ORES, 5,000 MT/MONTH OF TITANIUM CONCENTRATES, 1,000 MT/MONTH OF ZIRCONIUM AND 10,000 MT/MONTH OF VANADENITE. DETAILS OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND PROJECT FINANCING PROVIDED BY DI WERE SUFFICIENTLY VAGUE TO LEAD UEC TO QUESTION ITS CLAIMS. (FULL PACKET OF UEC/DI CORRESPONDENCE BEING

POUCHED). WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY INQUIRIES RE VALIDITY OF INQUIRY TO UEC FROM DI AND VALIDITY OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN DI AND PPMDC. ALSO, DOES DI HAVE AVAILABLE THE RAW MATERIALS IT IS ATTEMPTING TO SELL? DOES THE PPMDC HAVE AUTHORIZATION FROM THE GOP TO BUILD THE PROPOSED MILL? HOW WOULD PROJECT BE FINANCED? CHRISTOPHER

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Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

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Subject: MAJOR PROJECT: INTEGRATED STEEL MILL

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